



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

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RESERVE AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR RESERVE AFFAIRS

The month of April 2015 recognizes the importance of preparing for natural disasters and hazards, and fortifies our shared resilience through the national awareness campaign called America's PrepareAthon! (AP!)

AP! Is a biannual Department of Defense (DoD) campaign and provides an opportunity to ensure our Service members, civilians, and installations take action to prepare and plan ahead of disasters and emergencies. At every level, and especially here in the National Capital Region, a well-prepared workforce is essential to the department's ability to carry out its mission. Further, well-prepared family members are an important part of military readiness. The events of 9/11 are a testament to that truth.

The April 2015 AP! Campaign key message encourages individuals to "take action to prepare and register at www.ready.gov/prepare." Over the next four weeks, you will be provided information (via email and the web) about hazards that threaten our communities and actions to practice that help minimize vulnerabilities to disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and winter-storms. I encourage you to take advantage of this information.

Each week OASD-Reserve Affairs will highlight one theme:

- April 6-10: Prepare for a Hurricane
- April 13-17: Prepare for a Winter Storm
- April 20-24: Prepare for a Home Fire
- April 27-30: Prepare for an Active Shooter

AP! Culminates with national PrepareAthon! Day on April 30, 2015, as a capstone event that promotes preparedness activities across the country."

As Guard and Reserve Component members, we know well the importance of building sufficiently strong relationships with potential emergency response partners at the state, regional and federal levels. It is equally important we give the same attention to our internal employees, ourselves, and our families.

Richard O. Wightman, Jr.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Reserve Affairs)
Performing the Duties of the Assistant
Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs)